

Cedar River Anadromous Fish Committee

**Summary Minutes
November 20, 2003**

Meeting Time 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Meeting Location:

**Metering Building, Second Floor Conference Room
SPU Operations Control Center
2700 Airport Way South
Seattle, WA**

Members and Alternates Present: Bruce Bachen (SPU), Frank Urabeck (Trout Unlimited), Sam Wright (WA Trout), Phyllis Meyers (NMFS), Tim Romanski (USFWS), Steve Foley (WDFW), Hans Berge (KC), Bill McKay and Chuck Wischman (PSA)

Other Participants: Brodie Antipa, Chuck Johnson, Dave Seiler (WDFW), Bill Robinson (public), and Paul Faulds (SPU)

I) Call to order

Bruce called the meeting to order at 9:25 am. The meeting started late because many members were delayed due to poor driving conditions.

II) Approval of agenda

Members unanimously approved the agenda.

III) Meeting minutes review and approval from October 23rd

Members unanimously approved the meeting minutes from October 23, 2003.

IV) Cedar River sockeye hatchery program

Decision on hatchery EIS appeal

For this discussion Bruce provided members with a copy of the Hearing Examiners (HE) findings and decision and a copy of the Adaptive Management Program Summary. He briefly described the appeal process and identified areas where the HE was requiring more analysis. He noted that SPU was evaluating the decision by the HE and how best to respond.

V) Interim mitigation program for coho, chinook and steelhead

Update on adult PIT tag readers in the fish ladder at the Hiram Chittenden Locks

Bruce noted that the original concept of deploying the readers had changed and a second set of antennas was not included in the new scope of work. A second set of antennas would provide critical redundancy for the system in the event that the detection efficiency is low or the equipment malfunctions. Bruce said Dean Park of Biomark informed him that they normally install at least two sets of antennas for redundancy and some installations have up to eight.

Bruce stated that funds for this project from the HCP and the KCD grant totaled \$90,000. However, the installation of the system could range from \$94,000 to \$116,000. Factors that could influence the cost of the system were 1) if the juvenile PIT tag reader electronics could be used in the adult system and 2) if a second set of antennas was installed.

Status on agreement for steelhead genetic analysis

Bruce noted he had discussed this project with Anne Marshall and the LMA Parties had recommended funding the project. Chuck Johnson added that there were about 400 samples submitted to the genetics lab and the work will be done in December 2003. He added that additional funds may be required for a more detailed analysis of the results. Frank asked WDFW to provide the AFC with results from the initial analysis in January.

Break 10: 50 to 11:05

VI) Update on fish passage operations

Paul Faulds provided members with a brief update on fish passage operations. As of 11/18/03, 79 chinook, 20 coho, and 1 chum had been passed above the Landsburg Dam. Sixteen of the chinook were females and sixty-three were males, coho were split even with ten male and ten female, and the chum was a male. So far, transmitters were placed in twelve coho and tissue samples for DNA analysis were collected from all species passed above the dam. As of 11/16/03, the fish passage staff had transported 150 male and 66 female sockeye down river and 425 male and 180 female to the hatchery.

VII) Public comment (scheduled for 11:30)

VIII) Information and discussion items

Weir operation and egg take

Brodie noted the weir was reinstalled after the October flood, however fish collection was slow because only part could be reinstalled. The egg take for the year was approximately 10,316,000 and so far egg loss was less than 5%. Bruce said it was worth noting the challenges WDFW staff encountered in removing and reinstalling the weir and that the staff deserved praise for their efforts.

Cedar River fish counts

Steve reported the chinook run is about done. WDFW didn't survey the river this week due to high flows. The last survey counted only one live chinook with over 300 redds below Landsburg not including tributaries.

The preliminary peak live count for sockeye was 26,000. Steve noted that there were very few sockeye in North tributaries (Little Bear, Bear Creek, and May Creek).

Discuss AFC membership

Bruce noted that three candidates would be interviewed this afternoon for the vacant stakeholder position.

December meeting

Bruce noted the December AFC meeting needed to end by 12:30

IX) Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 1:02 PM